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PARTY SECRETARY'S REPORT ON AGRICULTURE IN THE GEORGIAN SSR

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[This report contains information on the report on 27 October 1953 by V. P. Mzhavanadze, Secretary, Central Committee of the Communist Party Georgian SSR to the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Georgian SSR in session on 27-28 October 1953, pursuant to the decree of the September 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU "On Measures for the Further Development of Agriculture in the USSR."]

On the General Successes and Failures of Agriculture in the Republic

Due to the solicitude of party and state, agriculture in the Georgian SSR has achieved considerable successes.

The volume of the indivisible funds of kolkhozes of the republic was 4 times as great in 1952 as in 1940.

Successes have been achieved in the development of tea growing, viticulture, citriculture, tobacco growing, and other branches of agriculture.

There are now 104 MTS and MZHS (mechanized animal husbandry stations) in the republic.

But the shortcomings pointed out by Secretary Khrushchev at the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU apply fully to agriculture in the Georgian SSR.

Animal husbandry is in an especially backward state. In recent years, the plans for increase in number of head of livestock have not been fulfilled. Productivity of livestock is still low. In 1952, the average milk yield per cow in kolkhozes of the republic was 95 kilograms less than in 1951 and averaged only 418 kilograms.

At present, the area devoted to potatoes in kolkhozes of the republic is 4,900 hectares smaller and that devoted to vegetables 2,600 hectares smaller than in 1943. The level of mechanization in growing these crops is entirely unsatisfactory.

In the past, the tendency has been to expand the area sown to wheat and to grow it even in those parts of the republic where it had never been grown before. The purpose being to make Georgia self-sufficient in grain, if possible. This error led to infringement on the further development of viticulture, restriction on the planting of new fruit orchards, and reduction in the area devoted to tobacco.

On the State of Animal Husbandry and Measures for Its Further Development

Animal husbandry is neglected in the republic and has had little attention paid to it in the past. In those cases where an increase in kolkhoz livestock is found, there is at the same time a greatly diminished number of livestock privately owned by kolkhoz workers.

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From October 1945 to October 1953, the number of cattle in the republic decreased 85,100, including 76,000 cows.

An alarming situation has arisen in respect to animal productivity; kolkhozes of the republic keep failing to meet their plans. The average yield per foraging cow in 1952 was 418 kilograms, or 53.8 percent of the plan; on 1 September 1953, it was 347 kilograms, or 40.8 percent of the plan.

For 7 months in 1953, only 1,240 cows were transferred to stalls instead of the 10,000 scheduled; enclosed pastures were laid out in 280 kolkhozes of the republic instead of the scheduled 800; and only 10 kolkhozes out of 50 adopted the successive grazing system. Milk production from cows fed on abundant amounts of succulent and other fodders was organized in 161 kolkhozes instead of the 500 planned.

Fodder was to be prepared in 1,500 kolkhozes during the foregoing period; only 89 kolkhozes managed to do so, and then haphazardly and incompletely.

Despite the enormous advantages of mechanization, the plan for mechanizing labor-consuming operations in kolkhozes of the republic remains unfulfilled year after year. In 1952, electric milkers were used in only five kolkhozes, and sheep were sheared mechanically in 306 kolkhozes.

The state is deprived of livestock deliveries by the private slaughter and sale of livestock which is permitted in kolkhozes of many rayons. Such slaughter and sale from 1 January to 1 October 1953, amounted to 44,800 head of cattle, 245,200 sheep and goats, and 154,400 hogs.

Barrenness in female livestock, unproductive breeding, and the low ratio of females to males in livestock herds of the republic have forced kolkhozes to fulfill their plans by buying up livestock. In 1952, kolkhozes of the republic purchased 91,400 head of cattle, 73,300 sheep and goats, and 13,600 hogs, for which they spent 98 million rubles, or 39.2 percent of the income they earned from animal husbandry.

An increase in the size of livestock herds must proceed from more productive breeding practices so that 100 cows give birth to 100 calves, which leading kolkhozes have proved is attainable; the ratio of cows must also be increased above the 21.7 percent in 1952. In the near future, every 100 head of cattle in suburban kolkhozes should contain no less than 60 cows; cows should comprise 40 percent of the cattle herds in mountainous kolkhozes, and 50 percent of the herds in remaining areas.

The plan for increasing the size of livestock herds will be considered fulfilled only when the plan for increasing the number of cows has been realized.

During the last few years, 25 poultry incubator-stations, with provisions for the simultaneous laying of 1,900,000 eggs, have been set up in the republic.

As of 1 January 1953, the percentage of purebred livestock in the republic consisted of: cattle, 17.1 percent; sheep, 44.9 percent; hogs, 36.3 percent; and horses 17.5 percent.

The construction of animal shelters in the republic is also in a deplorable condition. By 1 October kolkhozes had fulfilled their plan for such construction by the following percentages: cattle shelters, 16.4; shelters for calves, 12.5; pigsties, 15.4; shelters for sheep and goats, 22.4; and poultry houses, 17.5.

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The unsatisfactory situation in the development of animal husbandry in the republic is due mainly to serious lagging in the production and procurement of fodder.

The fodder base has shrunk in recent years, particularly as a result of the plowing up of a considerable part of the best pastures and hay meadows for sowing to wheat.

State plans for fodder procurement are not fulfilled year after year. As of 15 October, the 1953 plan for procurement of coarse fodder had been fulfilled 53.1 percent and that for ensilage storage 87.9 percent.

In recent years, in many kolkhozes the areas sown to such fodder grain crops as barley, oats, and millet have been reduced by improper planning; in some kolkhozes, sowing of these crops has been discontinued altogether. This situation must be corrected.

On Tea Growing and Citriculture

As of 1 July 1953, the area devoted to tea plantations in the republic comprised more than 60,000 hectares.

Tea yield has risen year by year. It was 2,600 kilograms per hectare in 1953 as compared with 605 kilograms in 1946.

According to the directives of the 19th Party Congress, the area devoted to tea in the republic is to be 60 percent greater in 1955 than it was in 1951, and the harvest of graded green tea leaves is to be about 75 percent greater.

The decree of the Council of Ministers USSR issued on 9 September 1953 set the 1954-1955 plan for establishment of tea plantations in the republic at 10,000 hectares, 4,500 hectares in 1954 and 5,500 hectares in 1955. In 1953, kolkhozes and sovkhoses are to establish 4,500 hectares of new plantations; 1,880 hectares were established during the first 6 months, the remaining hectares to be established during the fall of the year.

The 1953 plan called for a harvest of 108,000 metric tons of graded tea in kolkhozes and sovkhoses; as of 20 October, 106,407 metric tons, 98.5 percent of the plan, had been harvested and delivered to the state.

By the end of 1955, the area devoted to citrus crops was to have been 4.5 times as great as in 1950, or an increase in area to 30,000 hectares. But the decree of the Council of Ministers USSR of 9 September 1953 set the 1954-1955 plan for citrus planting at 5,000 hectares, 2,500 hectares in 1954 and 2,500 hectares in 1955. Then, the area would be 31,500 hectares by the end of 1955 instead of 30,000.

As of 1 July 1953, the area devoted to citrus had risen to 21,606 hectares, consisting of 7,072 hectares of lemons, 5,700 hectares of oranges, and 8,834 hectares of tangerines and other citrus fruits.

On Viticulture

The decree of the Council of Ministers USSR of 9 September 1953 set the 1954-1955 plan for establishment of new vineyards at 7,450 hectares, 3,100 hectares in 1954 and 4,350 hectares in 1955.

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The 1953 plan for establishment of vineyards in kolkhozes of the republic was fulfilled 48.8 percent in spring of the year.

On Tobacco Growing

By the end of 1955, there are to be 15,000 hectares of tobacco plantations in the republic, or 4,000 more hectares than in 1953.

On Horticulture

In 1952, the area devoted to fruit orchards in the republic was 95,472 hectares.

The decree of the Council of Ministers of 9 September 1953 set the 1954-1955 plan for establishment of fruit orchards at 7,000 hectares, 3,000 hectares in 1954 and 4,000 hectares in 1955.

The 1953 plan for establishment and restoration of orchards was fulfilled.

On Increasing Production of Potatoes and Vegetables

In 1951, the actual potato yield in kolkhozes of the republic was 58.8 metric quintals per hectare as compared with a planned yield of 125 metric quintals per hectare; in 1952, actual yield was 22.6 metric quintals as compared with a planned yield of 120 metric quintals.

The 1953 plan for planting of potatoes in the republic was fulfilled 90.1 percent.

In 1951, the average vegetable yield in the republic was 54.6 metric quintals per hectare; in 1952, it was 34.9 metric quintals.

For the purpose of increasing vegetable yield and supplying cities, industrial centers, and resorts with vegetables the year round, it is necessary to increase the area devoted to vegetables in 1954 to 12,000 hectares, including 9,000 hectares on irrigated land, and in 1955 to 13,000 hectares, including 9,000 hectares on irrigated land.

On Raising the Yield of Grain Crops

Grain husbandry is in a neglected state in the republic. In 1953, 130,000 hectares of maize were planted and 13,300 hectares of spring wheat were sown after the proper agrotechnical time limits for planting and sowing had elapsed.

While wheat-growing techniques are relatively good, those for growing maize are primitive in many rayons.

The Georgian Selection Station must intensify its efforts to introduce more productive grain crops suited to conditions in the field.

On Water Resources

A determined effort has been made during the last few years to develop the water resources of the republic. Progress in 1953 has been unsatisfactory, however, as only 50.8 percent of the 1953 plan for construction work has been completed in the past 9 months.

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Procurement is scheduled to irrigate 12,000 hectares of new land in 1953, to drain an area of 4,200 hectares, and to reconstruct an irrigation system covering 1,600 hectares. The execution of these measures will require a fundamental improvement in the work of the ministry.

On Further Improvement in the Operation of MTS and MZhS

Due to poor utilization of the tractor park, 30 out of the 101 MTS and 2 out of the 3 MZhS failed to fulfill the 1952 plan for tractor work. In the republic as a whole, various 1952 tractor-work plans were fulfilled by the following percentages less than 100: sowing of spring grain crops, 12.7; planting of potatoes, 39.9; inter-row cultivation of row crops, 67.2; plowing of clean summer fallow, 20.8; working of summer fallow, 51.9; sowing of winter grain crops, 17.4; and plowing of winter fallow, 27.4.

As of 20 October, MTS of the republic had fulfilled the 1953 plan for tractor work 88.4 percent and had performed a volume of work 346,553 hectares more than as of the same date in 1952.

Out of the 101 MTS and 3 MZhS in the republic, only 45 have standard repair shops, 44 have make-shift shops which require reconstruction, and the remaining 15 have no repair shops.

To strengthen MTS, it is necessary that each MTS and specialized station have a standard repair shop, at least 2-3 garages for tractor storage, 2-3 sheds for combine storage, the necessary number of sheds and open-air concrete platforms for agricultural-machine storage, the needed living quarters for MTS personnel, a fuel base, an automotive-vehicle garage, a spare-parts storehouse, an office, and a water-supply system.

On Agricultural Specialists

At present, there are 4,015 specialists with secondary education and 5,863 with higher education in the system of the agricultural organs of the republic.

At present, 567 or 27.5 percent of the 2,060 kolkhoz chairman have higher or secondary educations.

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